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matter of extreme doubt, viz. that the magnet has an influence on the human body. He is no less shy in accepting the truth of thought transference, and believes that very sensitive subjects can be made aphasic by looking at the left side of their heads.

The useful portion of the book consists of the historical notes (not always accurate, however; *e. g.*, it is said that Dr. Pigeaire really had a patient who earned the 3000 franc prize for clairvoyance, while the true and usual statement is that this subject refused to conform to the conditions of the Academy of Sciences); of the abstracts of some scientific papers, and the exceptionally numerous and admirable illustrations. In short, the book has an unfortunate pseudo-scientific air, and is much less reliable than some of the recent French compilations on the same subject.

J. J.

*Experiments in Improving the Condition of Deaf Mutes by Hypnotism.*  
Dr. BERKHAN. Berlin. klin. Wochenschr., 7 Feb., 1887.

Nine boys in a deaf mute institution in Braunschweig were hypnotized by gazing at a glass button, after their hearing had been carefully tested for a variety of noises. During the hypnosis vowels were spoken into the ears of the patients and other noises made, and they were aroused as soon as possible. The hearing of the boys was tested about half an hour later, and the process was repeated from four to six times on each boy with intervals of a week. The hearing of four of them has very greatly improved, though by no means restored, and at the time of the report the improvement had lasted about eighteen months.

*De la suggestion et de ses applications à la pedagogie.* Dr. BERILLON.  
Paris, 1888, 16 pp.

This is a continuation and reinforcement of the writer's paper on the same subject in 1886. The method of putting bad children to sleep so gradually as to awaken no opposition, and by purely verbal suggestion, is first stated. The nature of the suggestion is next discussed. This must be formulated with great precision, after a careful moral diagnosis, and often repeated in a voice and manner at once authoritative and sweet. This is an art of itself, and consists in condensing to laconic brevity the moral needs of the child, with a view also to ready realizability. The child must be alone and not subject to taunts of his fellows for being subjected to the process. A number of new cures of laziness, perverse instincts, grave defects of character, nervous tics, incontinence of urine both by day and by night, menstrual irregularities, chorea and irascibility, are narrated. Bernheim endorsed these conclusions at the end of the paper, and adds that the mother's means of putting her child to sleep are the original hypnotic methods.

*Variations de la personnalité.* Docteurs H. BOURRU et P. BUROT, professeurs a l'École de Médecine de Rochefort. Paris, 1888, 314 pp.

This book begins with a more detailed study of the case of V... Louis, of multiple personality fame, whose states have been described more briefly by Camuset, du Saulle, Richer, Voisin, Ribot, and F. W. A. Myers of the English society for psychic research. This subject was born in February, 1863, of an hysterical mother and an unknown

father. As a boy he was a vagabond and a thief, and since 1880 had filled a number of servile stations and been a patient in several hospitals, where his hysterical attacks attracted much attention. The six primary states or personalities of this subject are described, with the convenient table of Mr. Meyer showing for each state the extent of the subject's memory, his disposition and education, paralytic and anaesthetic symptoms, dynamism for both hands, etc. Other intermediate states, both spontaneous and provoked, are observed by these authors, who also observe perfect accord between the physical and attendant mental symptoms of each state, and tolerable accord between the successive personations of the same role so far as could be gathered. Each of these states and others are shown by photograph. The last half of the book is occupied by accounts conveniently compiled from many sources of other of the more important subjects of these changes. An abstract of explanatory theories is given in the last chapter, and the authors themselves explain these changes by variations in the focusing and diffusion of latent and potent nervous energy. Therapeutics must learn to distribute this force more evenly, and pedagogy to determine its place and degree of concentration.

*Étude sur le zoomagnétisme.* A. A. LIÉBEAULT. Nancy, 1883, 29 pp.

Forty-five children, most of them under three years of age, suffering from various diseases, each case of which is described in some detail, were cured or helped by the author's touch without pressure. Sometimes the hands were merely laid on, and sometimes the surface of the body was lightly stroked. From these results, which cannot be ascribed to heat or suggestion, the writer concludes that we must admit, along with the theory of suggestion held by the school of Nancy, that the fluidists are also partly right. Nervous vibrations or neurility can thus be transmitted during the waking state from an active to a passive or suffering organism. In his earlier and very important work on sleep, in 1866, the author had held that conscious thought has an equilibrating power which during artificial sleep can be made by suggestion to transport the nervous force of the subject from points of the body where it is abundant to parts where it is deficient or needs excitation. Mental acts thus may diffuse energy from centres where its accumulation causes disorders to centres disordered by defect. With infants, touch redistributes energy and causes an organic calm without mental action. People of energetic, sanguine combustion impress others most strongly. We must admit an irreducible force, *sui generis*, and of great therapeutic power. The motto of this pamphlet is, "He was in the world and the world knew him not." The author's protest against the infallibility of academies, and his bitter words concerning the neglect and scorn often meted out to great discoverers, remind us, in view of the fact that it was his great work, above referred to, which gave its character to the Nancy school, and the theory which he now so sadly lapses from in his old age, of the no less just complaint of Sterling, the originator of the modern idealistic movement in England, of similar want of recognition.

*De la suggestion hypnotique, dans ses rapports avec le droit civil et le droit criminel.* I. LIÈGEOIS. Paris, 1884, 70 pp.

This often cited memoir, by a distinguished jurist, recognizes the unconscious fatality with which hypnotic suggestions are often